



Harris Academy Newsletter

December 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Harris Academy's Winter newsletter which offers just a snap shot of some of the opportunities and successes that our young people have been involved in.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the session so far.

Mr Laidlaw

Mr Gordon Laidlaw (Depute Head Teacher and Year Head for S2) has been asked by Dundee City Council to move to Baldragon Academy for six months to work within their leadership team during a time of long-term absence. Mr Laidlaw will be moving, as Depute Head Teacher, at the start of next term on a temporary basis.

We offer Mr Laidlaw our best wishes in this temporary post but look forward to his return for academic session 18/19.

Mr Perry

During his six months out, Mr Laidlaw will be replaced by Mr Raymond Perry who is currently Depute Head Teacher at Braeview Academy. We look forward to welcoming Mr Perry after the Christmas break.

Amended Year Head structure

As of January, the revised Year Head structure will be:

S1 – Miss Mitchell
S2 – Mr Perry
S3 – Mrs White

S4 – Miss Chacko
S5 – Mr Stewart
S6 – Mr Millar

Please note that your child's Guidance teacher has not changed and remains your key contact in the school.

These temporary changes will be reviewed in advance of our change of timetable in May.

And finally...

I wish each and every one of you and your family an enjoyable and restful Winter holiday

With best wishes for the holidays,

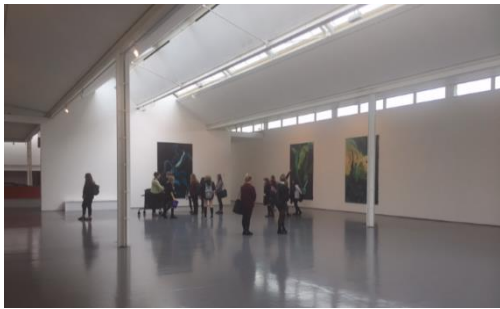
Barry Millar
Head Teacher

Art & Design Department

Senior pupils from the Art & Design Department attended a Developing Critical Skills Conference: 'describe and explain' for Higher and Advanced Higher pupils at the DCA.

Pupils focused on artists' work, initially to run through approaches and a framework for answering 'describe & explain' questions at higher level, plus how to back up opinions. Interactive cinema and gallery sessions + 1 speaker focusing on a decade, history, politics, world events, movements, art, design and fashion

- Clare Woods painting exhibition in DCA gallery/Kelly Richardson digital Landscapes exhibition
- Environmental public art at rear of DCA (Dalziel & Scullion, Duo Urban Orchard)
- Chair design from University of Dundee collection (Rietveld copy, Mackintosh, 60s plastic)
- Jewellery collections in DCA shop displays



Art & Design Department Calendar for Sale!! £5

We are celebrating the wonderful Art work created by our pupils. Please support their achievements by ordering one of our fantastic 2018 Calendars. S6 pupils will be taking orders during registration throughout December and January.

Harris Academy 2018 Art & Design Calendar



Art & Design Junior Christmas Card Competition

Well done to Erin Mooney S2 who has won the School Christmas card competition in the Art department. Thank you to all who took part, there were many wonderful designs!



Business Education Department

George R Donald Enterprise Challenge

The George R Donald Enterprise Challenge event was held at the Michelin Athletic Club on 8 November. This was organised by the George R Donald Fund in conjunction with the Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce. A team of 4 pupils from each secondary school in Dundee and Angus participated in the event. Each team had a local sponsor. The Harris team were - from S4 Craig McDonald and Elliot Tosh and from S5 Jordyn Barlow and Yasmin Dunn. The pupils were asked to put forward an idea for a social enterprise based in Dundee to reduce waste. They called themselves Earth2plate and came up with the idea of a clothes swap and teaching low income families to grow and cook their own food as well as raising awareness of these issues. They then had to present a pitch to a team of judges from the Chamber of Commerce.

Although they did not win, our team worked extremely hard and came up with some brilliant ideas. A good day was had by all!

Investment Challenge Competition

This year all our higher Business Management students took part in the Investment Challenge Competition against teams in the North East Area sponsored by PNB Paribas.

This is a fast moving business simulation game of strategic thinking and pressurised decisions. The object of the game is to increase the value of the team's starting fund by buying and selling shares in 12 companies and 3 commodities.

Students worked in pairs on 2 linked screens – one for the Investment Analyst and one for the Media Analyst and have to react quickly to breaking news stories to access their potential impact on share prices.

It proved a great challenge and was an enjoyable experience for all participants. Although we did not feature in the top 3, the pair with the highest return in Harris Academy were Craig McDonald and Liam Reid. Well done!

Computing

New for this year: Code Club

We launched Code Club in August! There are between 15 and 20 pupils that attend every Tuesday lunchtime. Pupils are developing Scratch, HTML/CSS and python. Code club has been supported by our Digital Ambassadors Caitlin Burns, Aidan Cram and Max Short



Lego League

The Lego Team have been working hard to prepare for their competition on the 13th of January. The team have designed and built a robot and have programmed it to complete up to 7 missions! This year's theme is Hydro Dynamics and we are in partnership with a local car washing company. Pupils are investigating the water cycle. Computing Science have worked with both the Physics and Business Studies departments. Huge thanks to Miss Chalmers and Miss Reid. The team have been led by our fabulous Digital Ambassadors Caitlin Burns, Aidan Cram, Theo Bryden and Max Short.



Search for a Star

Our S2 classes took part in the Search for a Star coding contest. We were very lucky to work with BitLoom Games. The judges had a difficult time choosing the winning all girls team! Parents, Staff and pupils enjoyed the event and we are looking forward what our current S1 pupils will create next year.



S3 Computing Pioneers and Family Learning

One of our S3 Computing classes took part in the Raspberry Pi Pioneers Challenge

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/blog/pioneers-third-challenge/>



The team Byte Them Pi's won an Awesome Prize Award

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18eiIE_CYH2MtjIWepiqTCCoCB3QDon8L/view?usp=sharing

On Monday 4th December families were invited into the department. Our very skilled S3 pupils demonstrated how to program a Microbit. Each family took their Microbit decorations home to put onto their Christmas Tree!



S1 Pupils designed and 3D printed their sprites before developing code to bring them to life!



Special Thanks: The Computing department would like to thank our partners Abertay University especially the Cyber Security students, James from BitLoom Games, Lorna from Code Club, Mister C from Raspberry Pi foundation, Mark from NCR and everyone else who has supported the learning and teaching since August.

Geography Department

S2 trip to Dynamic Earth

On Wednesday 22nd November, a group of budding Geographers set off on a trip to Dynamic Earth, along with Miss Quirk, Miss Menzies, Mrs Smith and Paul. S2 classes had been studying Earth Forces and a trip to Dynamic Earth was the perfect opportunity to allow pupils to gain a hands-on experience in to the formation of our planet. The pupils were split in to 2 groups and took part in a Supervolcano2s workshop delivered by the fantastic Dynamic Earth staff. The pupils worked collaboratively through a number of activities to understand the effects of a Supervolcano. We then became time travellers for the day and went back in time to the beginning of earth. We then witnessed how our planet changed into what we know today – we even had to hold on tight as the ground shook beneath our feet in our very own earthquake experience!! As we continued our journey, we came up close and personal with an iceberg .We were able to touch the ice and learn how glaciers have helped shape our planet. This was one of the highlights of the day and the pupils loved this! The end of our journey brought us in to the tropical rainforest, where we witnessed a thunder and lightning storm and learned all about the many different animals that make the rainforest their home. After all that time travelling, we stopped for lunch and then boarded the bus to head home to Dundee. It was a great experience, the pupils were very well behaved and a credit to the school. The staff at Dynamic Earth commented on just how well the pupils had behaved. A fantastic day!



Higher Geography & Environmental Science Fieldtrip

On Wednesday 13th September, pupils from the Higher Geography class and the Higher Environmental Science class, along with Mrs Leppard, Miss Quirk, and Miss Menzies, took a trip across the Tay to Tentsmuir in Fife. The aim of the trip was to carry out fieldwork on plant succession on coastal sand dunes for the added value unit of the Higher Geography course and unit outcomes for the Environmental Science course. The pupils worked in groups on the beach and sand dunes at Tentsmuir, measuring slope angles and distances, and recording information on landforms, vegetation and soils along a transect in order to test the theories of sand dune succession that they had been learning about in the classroom. It was a rather grim day, but spirits remained high and Ciar even braved the elements in his shorts! The groups worked well together, learning to use instruments and fieldwork equipment they hadn't used before and recording their findings as they moved through the dunes, from the sea to the forest. They rewarded themselves with an unbelievable amount of food that emerged from their bags for a picnic while we sheltered in the trees, before the walk back to the bus to head back over the Tay Bridge to Dundee. The pupils have now taken their data back to the classroom to process and analyse and have completed their added value assessment and unit outcomes. Hopefully, they will have found this experience particularly valuable in bringing the classroom alive, allowing them to see first-hand what they've been learning about and also bringing them together to work as a team and get to know their fellow classmates.



History Department

Dark Dundee Share History

Teachers and S3 classes were delighted to be visited by the founders of Dark Dundee Walking Tours, Louise and Stewart, accompanied by Rachel from Dundee Young Workforce. Louise and Stewart enthusiastically shared some fantastic local History with everyone, and explained that they had a wonderful selection of topics, such as Jessie Jordan, Nazi Spy, and White Lady of the Coffin Mill, for pupils to research as group projects. It was also explained to pupils that, once researched, these projects were to be presented to both Louise, Stewart and Rachel, as well as their teachers and classmates. The criteria for presenting these was quite strict, there was to be no power-point! A hush fell over the room! After a follow up visit to further guide and reassure the pupils, and some debate, pleas and rehearsals, they were ready to go! Pupils offered their presentations which Louise and Stewart commented upon as being 'intelligently presented with some brilliant facts' that 'Historical content was amazing' and that some pupils were 'BRILLIANT speakers.' Rachel, from Young Dundee Workforce, ended the presentations by reminding everyone of the value of History, and of the many skills, and subsequent employment opportunities which could come from such a fantastic subject. As teachers, we are very proud of our pupils. Thank you very much to Dark Dundee and Rachel for allowing us this wonderful opportunity and to Miss Mitchell for helping with organising this. Finally, we wish to extend our thanks to Mrs White who enthusiastically accepted the role of Judge for a number of presentations. We are very hopeful of this becoming a regular feature of our study in History.

Battlefields Trip

Recruitment for the 'Harris Academy History Department Pals Battalion' trip to the Battlefields of WW1 in France and Belgium 2018 is proceeding apace! Forty recruits have signed up for service and early December saw a visit from Dr Fraser Brown of the Black Watch Regimental Association. Dr Brown delivered an hour long presentation on Harris Academy's sacrifice during the Great War and had on display a fascinating collection of artefacts and sources from the period. As 2018 progresses it is hoped that several other events be organised to prepare the pupils for their trip which will take place only one week before the centenary of the armistice in early November 2018.

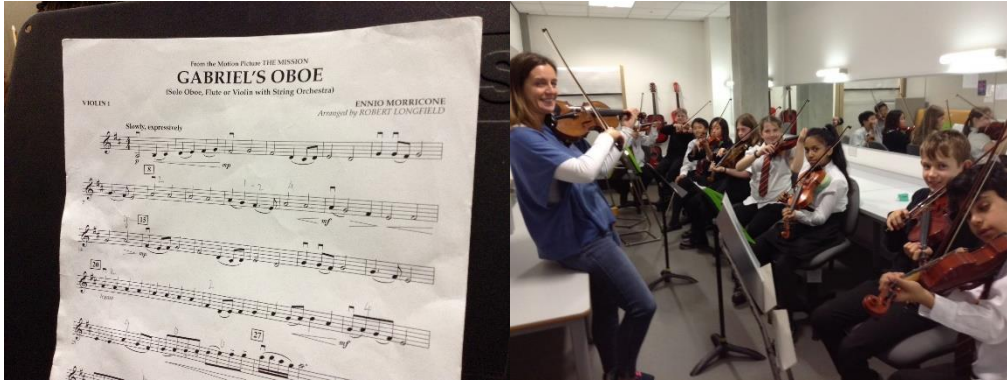
Music & Drama Department

Dundee Food and Flower Festival.

The Pipe Band, Ceilidh group and Vocal Duo performed in the September Food & Flower Festival at Camperdown Park.

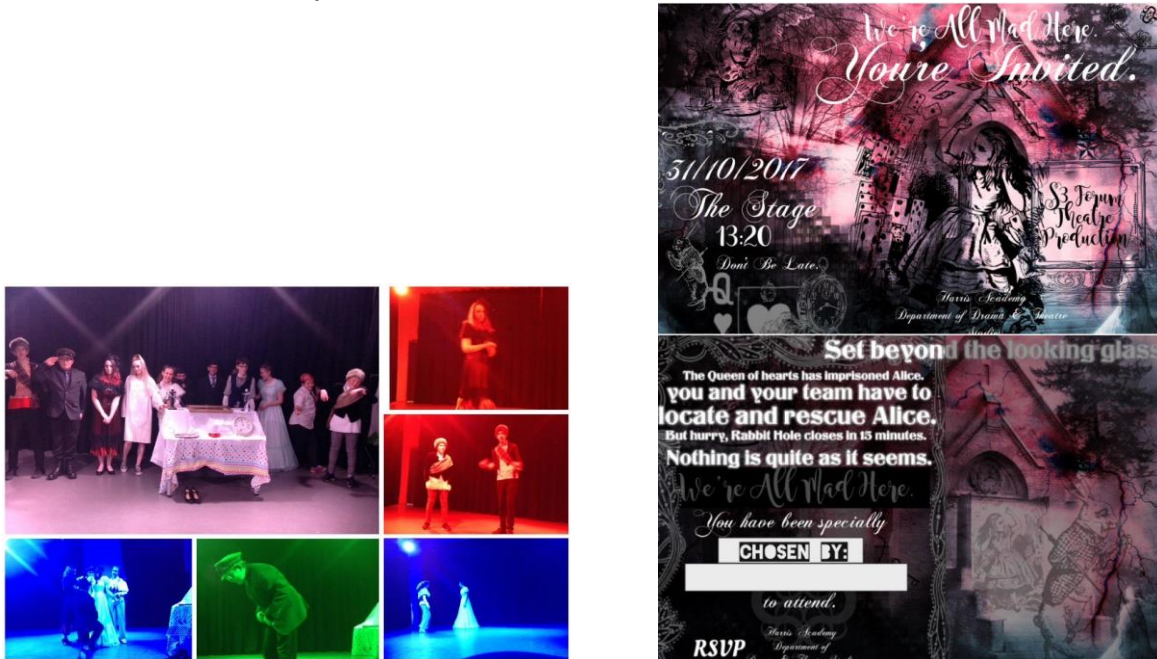


Scottish Ensemble Workshop



In September, we welcomed string players from the Scottish Ensemble to the Music Department to lead a string playing workshop. They led our string ensemble in sectional rehearsals throughout the afternoon before pulling the whole ensemble together for one final performance. Pupils took part in various exercises to grow their confidence in using string techniques. Our young people rounded off the afternoon with a final performance of *Gabriel's Oboe* from *The Mission* with a beautiful cello solo from S4 pupil Grace Dobson.

S3 Drama Showcase, Escape from Wonderland



On Halloween, Ms McTavish's S3 drama class showcased their class work with an escape-room production inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*. Specially invited staff members were imprisoned in *Wonderland* and tasked with unravelling riddles and solving clues to rescue Alice before the rabbit hole closed.

St Luke's Gala Concert in Aid of Cancer Charities



At the beginning of November, our senior choir and a number of soloists participated in a charity concert hosted by our very own Mr Peters, held in St Luke's Church in Broughty Ferry. S5 oboist Hazel Bengough is pictured performing her solo. Well over £1000 was raised and divided between Ward 32 at Ninewells Hospital, Maggie's Centre and Marie Curie.

Rotary Vocal Final



In November, S6 pupil Beth Wood competed in the Rotary Young Vocalist of the Year competition, held in the Dundee University Chaplaincy. She did us proud and has been put through to the Regional Final in February. Well done, Beth!

Rotary Instrumental Final



Violinist Tilly Adamik won the Grand Final of the Dundee Rotary Young Instrumentalist of the Year in late November with her impressive performance. Congratulations, Tilly!

Dundee Light Night performance in St Paul's Cathedral



In late November our school choir, flute trio and S5 pupil Rael Watt donned their Santa hats and copious amounts of tinsel to perform in St. Paul's Cathedral as part of the switching on of the city centre Christmas lights. Our drama club entertained the audience with a performance of Directing the Nativity.

West End Lights Switch on Concert

At the end of November the Harris Academy Brass Ensemble and Flute Trio performed in the Dundee west End Christmas lights concert in Dundee west church.



Christmas Carol Concert



Harris Academy Music Department returned to Logie and St. John's (Cross) Church for their Christmas Carol Concert. The church was packed to the rafters with friends, family and members of the public who enjoyed an evening of hearing the Christmas story and carol-singing accompanied by the school orchestra and the pipe organ. The evening was a success from beginning to end – a wonderful way to end 2017 and celebrate the achievements of our young people.

Christmas Community Events

Throughout December, pupils from the Music Department have been busy spreading Christmas cheer by performing in the community. The senior choir and ceilidh group entertained patients at Ninewells Hospital and residents of Oakland's Day Care Centre & Caledonia Housing.



Modern Languages Department

In October, as part of the Discovery Film Festival, groups of pupils from S3 – S6 went to DCA to view a Spanish, French and German film. Another wonderful experience in raising our young people's cultural awareness.

S3 Careers Event:

On Thursday 7th December an S3 Careers Event was held across Dundee schools to support S3 pupils in their course choices and to broaden their horizons about the variety of careers available to them. The Business & Language Careers Events were organised by 1+2 Tayside and supported by DYW Dundee & Angus. The event took place over a morning and covered the whole of the third year cohort.

The year group came together at the start of the school day for a brief introduction; which highlighted to them the multitude of industries that would soon be flourishing in Dundee and Tayside. Along with discussing the variety of pathways which could help them achieve their career goals (apprenticeships, college, university or straight into work.) The introduction also touched upon the fact that employers looked for more than just qualifications, young people also need personal strengths, which can only be developed through experience.

After the introduction the cohort was split into smaller groups which rotated around different 20 minute sessions run by local businesses and organisations. These sessions were an opportunity for the pupils to engage with local professionals and ask questions. Career paths, experience and learning were illustrated to them with a

personal and local context.



The aim of these workshops was to illustrate to the young people how beneficial learning a second language or studying business is for any future career they might pursue. With the ultimate hope of encouraging them to choose a modern language and/or business studies at subject choice in January/February.

One of the sessions was run by Skills Development Scotland personnel, who discussed with the young people that careers, jobs and industries are changing. Highlighting the international nature of modern jobs and the need to be able to work effectively across borders, languages and cultures. Other companies and organisations who ran workshops were. Thank you to all of the companies, organisations and individuals who got involved; Skills

Development Scotland, University of Dundee, Al-Maktoum College, Michelin, Visit Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Volpa, Councillor Lynne Short,



Having local professionals involved in schools provides more context and impact for the young people (it makes the statements of teachers realistic and relevant), while also making them more aware of different careers and pathways. All of which helps young people begin thinking about what they personal could achieve and how.

RMPS Department

The Anne Frank Ambassador trip to Amsterdam

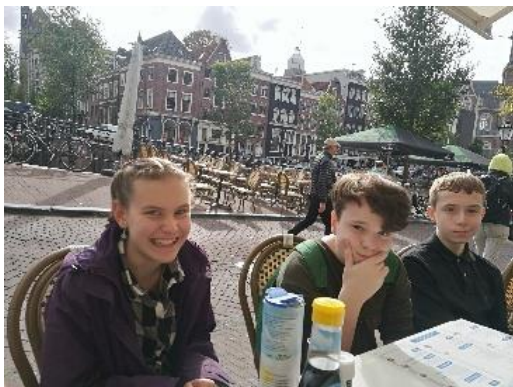
This time last year we were bragging about the S2 pupils who were involved with the Anne Frank Trust to show fellow pupils around an exhibition about her life and we celebrated the chosen 6 Ambassadors.

This year the now S3 Ambassadors have created and delivered a workshop to P7 pupils in Blackness Primary School and in October we flew to Amsterdam visit Anne Frank's House. And what a whirlwind of a trip it was!

3am: Meet up at Dundee House.

6am: Fly to Amsterdam! (See picture of half-asleep S3's)

Delay at airport!



9.30: March to the Anne Frank house! We made it there 2 minutes late, which was pretty good going considering the delay.

10am: The pupils from Harris Academy and the 3 other schools were part of an education session on Anne Frank – our pupils answered lots of questions and were generally very impressive! So impressive in fact that the BBC reporter who was there asked us to come to be interviewed later on!

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-41517570>) India and Tom did a great job, natural celebrities.



Then we had lunch and free time began! We spent a large portion of the free time trying to figure out which cruise line Mrs Lee had booked with ... but eventually we were on our way down the canal for a tour of Amsterdam and a well-earned rest followed by a Starbucks to revive us!

5pm: reconvene with the other schools and we're on our way home!

8pm: Playing Uno in the airport. Cue another delay!

9pm: Evan fell asleep on the woman next to him, Tom rescued him.

1am We are finally home again! What a crazy, exhausting AMAZING DAY! Thank you to the pupils and parents who stayed up so late (or early) to make the day happen, it was so worth it.

Duke of Edinburgh

Harris Academy's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme is up and running again and is proving most successful. We have over 40 pupils involved and are being provided with invaluable help from Chris Wood, Centre Support Officer for Dundee and Angus. We are all looking forward to next Spring and keeping our fingers crossed for some great expedition weather!

Table Tennis Club

The Table Tennis Club continues to thrive. It has been expanded to cover two lunchtimes, Wednesday for S1 and S2, Thursday for S3 – S6. The standard of play has improved drastically over the past year and will continue to do so now that there is a member of staff with coaching badge level 1. Several club members recently had their first taste of competitive action down at Ward Road in the Secondary Schools Qualifiers. Joe Duncan-Morris and Hamada Al-Rubayee competed well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, while Andrew Nimmo, who regularly humiliates the club founder, finished 2nd in the Under 16 Boys section. Several of the members have started to attend coaching sessions down at Ward Road on a Monday evening from 19:00 – 20:00.

Prince's Trust Achieve groups

Another busy term for the groups with lots to celebrate. Our link into the community with our intergenerational project at Corso Street Sheltered Housing has been fantastic. We have all really enjoyed being with the residents and have built up very strong relationships with them during activities such as jewellery making, quizzes, sharing memories, playing pool and a trip to St Andrews. We also invited the residents along for afternoon tea, a short presentation of all our work and a tour of the school. Mr Millar, Mrs White, Miss Mitchell and Mr Mine popped along to join us, which was brilliant! It was a real feel-good celebration afternoon. We are now running a jewellery social enterprise group and one of the residents very kindly made and sold jewellery and gave the profit to us, which was an unexpected bonus of our work with Corso Street. Bev Smith, one of our School Support Workers, very kindly came along to Corso Street for a Christmas Singalong on the 14th December. A great time was had by all singing and dancing our way into the festive season. All the pupils involved have achieved a Prince's Trust Community Unit and are working towards their Saltire Awards for volunteering. This is such a rewarding initiative for everyone.

Upcycling furniture is very topical at the moment, therefore, we have involved our pupils in a project using donated furniture. We are almost finished one piece, a pine dresser, which we have a buyer for and it has been amazing to see the transformation their hard work has achieved.

Our S2 group completed a sponsored walk in Hallowe'en costumes across The Tay Road Bridge. Thankfully, the weather was cold but sunny and everyone did very well. The money raised has been used to sponsor a Guide Dog and we are hoping for a visit from The Centre in the New Year.

All of the groups have been involved in our cooking programme at Menzieshill Community Centre and we would like to thank Chris and Shelley for all their help and support.

*** Dates for your Diary ***

✱

*** School closes for Winter Term 2017***
Friday 22nd December 2017 (noon)

*** School opens for Spring Term 2018 ***
Monday 8th January 2018

*** Prelims ***

Week Commencing 15th January 2018
(HE and Music Practical Assessments)

Week Commencing 22nd January 2018
(All other Prelims)

A full list of key dates can be found in our school calendar and year group calendars on the school website



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